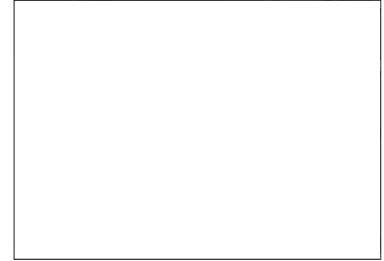




Directorate of
Intelligence

Top Secret



Afghanistan Situation Report



25X1

79-81

IMC/CB

30 July 1985

Top Secret

NESA M 85-10157CX
SOVA M 85-10139CX

30 July 1985

Copy **081**

25X1

Page Denied

TOP SECRET

25X1

AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT

CONTENTS

SOVIET OPERATIONS IN PANJSHER, OTHER AREAS 1

Recent Soviet activity has been concentrated on the Panjsher Valley; insurgent activity, meanwhile, has picked up in Kabul and other areas.

25X1

SITUATION IN HERAT 1

The regime's inability to improve its position in Herat has prompted another Soviet sweep of the area.

25X1

25X1

IN BRIEF 4

PERSPECTIVE

NURISTAN: GATEWAY TO NORTHEASTERN AFGHANISTAN 6

Nuristan, a rugged area bordering Pakistan, is typical in many ways of remote regions of Afghanistan that are not strategic but that provide insurgents with a source of supplies and transit.

25X1

30 July 1985
NESA M 85-10157CX
SOVA M 85-10139CX

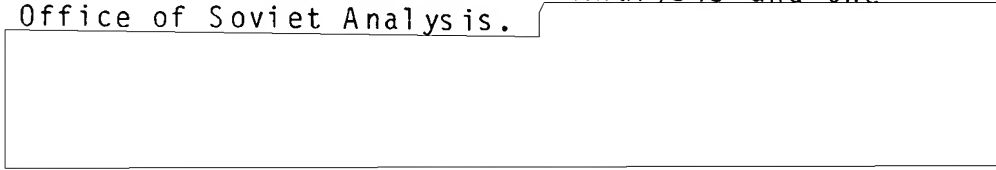
25X1

TOP SECRET



25X1

This document is prepared weekly by the Office of
Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis and the
Office of Soviet Analysis.



25X1



30 July 1985
NESA M 85-10157CX
SOVA M 85-10139CX

25X1

TOP SECRET

25X1

SOVIET OPERATIONS IN PANJSHER, OTHER AREAS

25X1

After intensified operations in the Panjsher Valley, Soviet forces apparently are withdrawing. [redacted] some Soviet motorized rifle and artillery units have left both Bazarak and Rokha and are moving toward the mouth of the valley. Some Soviet forces remain at Bazarak, the northernmost Soviet deployment in the valley. The Soviet withdrawal follows intensified activity that included operations in the Hazara Valley and the deployment of Soviet troops into the upper reaches of the Panjsher Valley.

25X1
25X1

25X1

In other regions, areas of Kabul and the Soviet military complex at Darulaman were rocketed on 16 and 18 July, respectively, according to the US Embassy. In Feyzabad, Badakhshan, guerrilla attacks nearly succeeded in closing the airport, [redacted]

25X1
25X1

The crew of two Soviet MI-25 Hind helicopters defected to Pakistan on 13 July, bringing their aircraft with them. Guerrilla spokesmen in Peshawar reported that 131 captured Afghan officers about to be exchanged were killed when Afghan Government helicopters bombed a mujahedin stronghold in the Panjsher Valley. [redacted]

25X1

SITUATION IN HERAT

25X1

[redacted] resistance forces were successful in operations in the first part of this month against Soviet and regime units in Herat. By 10 July, the insurgents controlled two-thirds of the city, and by 17 July, after intense fighting, regime forces withdrew. [redacted] major elements of two Soviet motorized rifle regiments had left their garrisons in the Herat area. [redacted]

25X1

25X1
25X1

Comment: The regime's inability to improve its position in Herat probably has prompted another Soviet sweep of the area, [redacted] The Soviets may temporarily suppress the insurgents in the city--probably at the cost of high casualties--but they have insufficient forces to effect

25X1
25X1

30 July 1985
NESA M 85-10157CX
SOVA M 85-10139CX

25X1

TOP SECRET

25X1



800352 (545424) 4-85

30 July 1985
 NESA M 85-10157CX
 SOVA M 85-10139CX

25X1

TOP SECRET

25X1

dramatic improvements in security there. The well-organized insurgent forces in the area also are likely to concentrate on attacking targets--border posts, convoys, and the fuel pipeline--left undefended while the Soviets conduct urban operations in Herat.

25X1

25X1

25X1

30 July 1985
NESA M 85-10157CX
SOVA M 85-10139CX

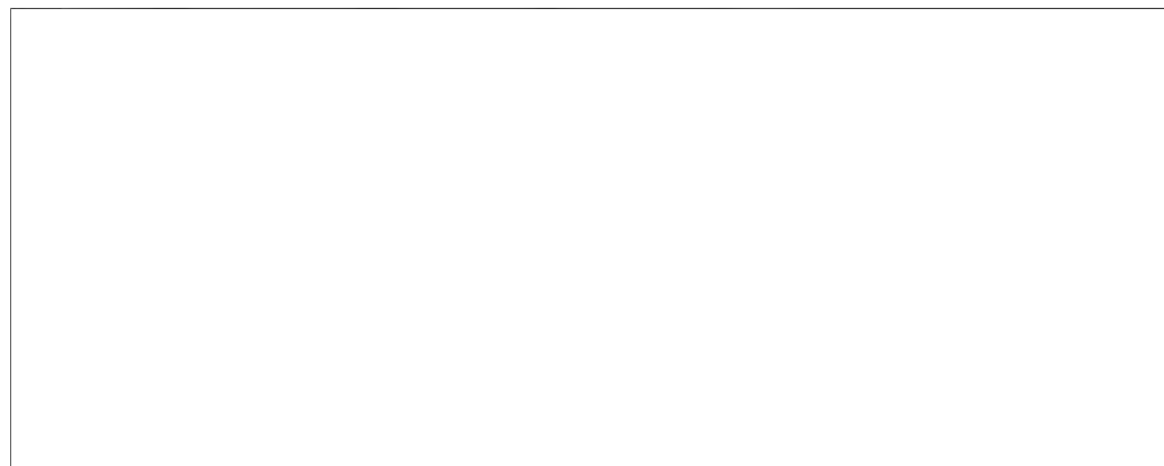
25X1

Page Denied

TOP SECRET

25X1

25X1



-- [redacted] two Flogger
G-equipped Soviet fighter squadrons--one at Bagram
and another at Shindand airfields--have rotated.
They were replaced with two Flogger G variant-
equipped squadrons, which will marginally increase
Soviet air combat capabilities. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

30 July 1985
NESA M 85-10157CS
SOVA M 85-10139CX

25X1

TOP SECRET

CIA Internal Use Only

PERSPECTIVE

NURISTAN: GATEWAY TO NORTHEASTERN AFGHANISTAN

Nuristan, a rugged area bordering Pakistan, is typical in many ways of the sparsely populated, remote regions of Afghanistan that are not strategic but that provide the insurgents with a safe source of supplies and transit. The Nuristanis are politically independent and generally have remained outside the conflict between the Kabul regime and the insurgents.

The Liberation of Nuristan

Nuristan comprises the northern half of Konarha and Laghman Provinces in eastern Afghanistan. The area is inhabited by about 100,000 Nuristanis, one of Afghanistan's smaller ethnic groups. Most of the region is extremely mountainous and well-forested, making it difficult for Soviet and regime forces to penetrate, although armored vehicles can enter the area's three main river valleys on primitive dirt roads.

The Nuristanis were the first ethnic group to take up arms against the Communist regime in Kabul after the April 1978 coup. They revolted after Kabul authorities had executed the Afghan Interior Minister--the highest ranking Nuristani official in the Daoud government--and arrested a number of local Nuristani government officials, according to a Western observer. During the summer and autumn of 1978, they pushed the Afghan Army and police out of the area's three main river valleys.

A government effort to reconquer the region in late 1978 failed. The government organized a militia composed of about 20,000 neighboring Gujars (an Indian people originally from the Gujarat area of the Punjab) and 15,000 Pushtuns--the Nuristanis' traditional ethnic rivals--and promised them that they could pillage Nuristani villages, according to a Western observer.

30 July 1985
NESA M 85-10157CX
SOVA M 85-10139CX

TOP SECRET

25X1

Reinforced by three regular Army battalions, the militia pushed its way back into three main river valleys in October 1978 but was forced to retreat in the spring. Several ineffective bombing attacks by the Afghan Air Force against several Nuristani villages failed to intimidate the area's inhabitants. [redacted]

25X1

Independence from Conflict

Since the expulsion of the Afghan Army, Nuristan has been important as an insurgent supply route. Nuristan's main trails have been used by Tajiks as one of several routes to the Panjsher Valley and to northeastern Afghanistan, [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] Tajiks from Badakhshan have also used the Nuristan route more often since the Panjsher Valley offensive in late 1982 to export gems, which they sell in Pakistan to buy arms. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

The Nuristanis have sometimes harassed the Tajik insurgents but have not actively sided with Kabul. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

Nuristani groups, who claimed they represented an independent Nuristan, were demanding transit fees from insurgents. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

Few Nuristanis have joined Kabul's militia. The government funded Sanwar Nuristani, the former commander of the Kabul Central Garrison under Prime Minister Daoud, and sent him to northern Afghanistan in 1980 to raise a militia to interdict insurgent convoys, [redacted]

25X1

30 July 1985
NESA M 85-10157CX
SOVA M 85-10139CX

25X1

TOP SECRET

25X1

25X1

Little Activity Against Soviet and Afghan Forces

Nuristani insurgents have been active only in the upper Konar Valley, against the Afghan Army outpost at Barikowt. [REDACTED]

25X1

the most active commander was Jaliatullah Jalal, who began harassing the Afghan Army outpost in 1981 with about 500 armed men and subsequently gained control of a number of villages south of the outpost. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] Jalal's insurgents included about 120 Gujars, but that a change in leadership among either ethnic faction could cause this alliance to collapse. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

Other Nuristani insurgents have been inactive because they are far from Soviet and Afghan forces. With the exception of the upper Konar River Valley in Nuristan, Afghan and Soviet troops are located only in the southern part of Konarha and Laghman Provinces in Pushtun areas. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] tribal and ethnic divisions continue to handicap the Nuristanis. The two main insurgent leaders of the Nuristani interior, Mollah Afzal, the leader of the Kati tribal group of upper Nuristan, and Amin Anwar Khan, the leader of the Kam tribal group of lower Nuristan, have never cooperated extensively with each other or with Jalal in exchanging intelligence information or in attacking Soviet or Afghan forces. The Pushtun Hizbi Islami leader in southern Nuristan, Mollah Rustam, has extended his influence because of this lack of unity [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

25X1

30 July 1985
 NESA M 85-10157CX
 SOVA M 85-10139CX

25X1

TOP SECRET

25X1

Outlook

Nuristan probably will continue to have only a minor role in the insurgency. The Soviets and Afghan Government are unlikely to seek military domination of the area in the near term because of its remoteness, rough terrain, and independent populace. Meanwhile, the region will remain important as one of several transit routes for the insurgents, especially the Jamiat.

25X1

30 July 1985
NESA M 85-10157CX
SOVA M 85-10139CX

25X1

TOP SECRET

25X1

Portrait of the Nuristanis

According to Western academics, the Nuristanis--once considered to be descendants of the ancient Greeks--are now thought to be related to an earlier people from central Asia. They tend to have lighter features and to be less repressive towards women than other Afghan ethnic groups.

The Nuristanis were the last people to be conquered by the Kabul authorities. They were converted forcibly to Islam in 1895 by the King of Afghanistan, who changed the name of their region from Kafiristan (land of infidels) to Nuristan (land of light). The Nuristanis were treated well by the King and proved loyal subjects to him and his successors. Many rose to prominence in the government and military.

The Nuristanis traditionally have been on poor terms with their southern neighbors, the Pushtuns and Gujars. According to Nuristani tradition, the Pushtuns siezed most of the best land in the Konar-Kabul basin areas over the last several centuries and forced the Nuristanis into the back valleys and mountains. The Gujars, though less numerous than the Pushtuns, also have been competitors for land. Warfare between the Nuristanis and the Pushtuns was frequent until the Nuristanis' conversion to Islam in 1895.

30 July 1985
NESA M 85-10157CX
SOVA M 85-10139CX

Top Secret

Top Secret